

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly Farms Inventory Number: M: 28-11-10
Address: Bentley Road Olney-Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) Historic district: ☒ yes ☐ no
City: Sandy Spring Zip Code: 10860 County: Montgomery
USGS Quadrangle(s): Sandy Spring
Property Owner: Multiple Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: JT 32
Project: MD 108 Agency: SHA
Agency Prepared By: EHT Traceries, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Laura Trieschmann Date Prepared: 3/10/2011
Documentation is presented in: _____
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The three historic properties known as Bloomfield, Oakleigh, and Cloverly (M: 28-11-M: 28-11-10) were included within the Sandy Spring Historic District (M: 28-11). This larger historic district was recorded on a Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) form in 1985 by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission. Since that time, historic buildings along MD 108, the district's main thoroughfare, have been demolished and altered. Although the larger Sandy Spring District is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, Bloomfield, Oakleigh, and Cloverly collectively possess historic and architectural significance and integrity to reflect the historic context of the larger Quaker community.

The three properties have all been individually documented on MIHP forms:

- 1) ☐ Bloomfield (M: 28-63)
- 2) ☐ Oakleigh (M: 28-64)
- 3) ☐ Cloverly (M: 28-65)

Collectively, Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly consists roughly of 15.48 acres.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
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MHT Comments:

Jim Tarkenton
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
B. Kinty
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/8/2011
Date
7/13/11
Date

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Sandy Spring was settled in the 1720s and construction began soon thereafter. Although no buildings remain from its original period of development, Sandy Spring is home to a number of significant properties that reflect its late-eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century history. Historically, Sandy Spring was a rural Quaker community held together by a small commercial district. The residential development predates the commercial aspect of the town as Quakers settled in the area in the eighteenth century and named the settlement Sandy Spring after a spring located on the nearby Harewood, an expansive agricultural property improved by a 1793 wood-frame house. The collective historic context of Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly documents the development and subsequent subdivision of a nineteenth-century farm associated with the Bentley family. This prominent family was longtime residents of Sandy Spring and active members of the Quaker community. The property was owned by Caleb Bentley, who moved to Montgomery County in 1795. Originally a clock maker, Bentley eventually became a leading area farmer and entrepreneur. He first settled in Brookeville, where he was proprietor of the town's first store and served as postmaster. Bentley lived with his second wife at "Madison House," so-called because President John Madison and Dolley Madison took refuge there during the War of 1812. The Bentleys remained in Brookeville until 1819, when they are believed to have moved to Georgetown. About this time, Caleb Bentley obtained ownership of Bloomfield (then known as Bloomingdale), which he occupied full-time by 1838. The original portion of the house, a room-behind-room structure, is believed to have been erected prior to 1806 (a 1790 date is often cited). It was under the ownership of Caleb Bentley that the house was first enlarged by the construction of a two-story, side-passage wing. The wing was certainly in place by 1848, when the fire insurance policy was granted. In 1851, the property was inherited by Richard T. Bentley, who was a prominent local farmer, postmaster, president of the savings bank, and one of the founding members and president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was also noted for his active role in the formation of the Farmers' Club of Sandy Spring and is said to have offered their house as a stop along the Underground Railroad. Bentley was responsible for the substantial enlargements to the house in 1885-1886.

John C. Bentley, the son of Richard and Edith Bentley, inherited Bloomfield in 1889. Living at Cloverly (historically known as Sherwood), John Bentley allowed his brother, Edward Needles Bentley, to live at Bloomfield. Cloverly at 321 Olney-Sandy Spring Road was constructed in 1849-1852 by Benjamin Rush Roberts on a 43-acre parcel subdivided by Caleb Bentley in 1849. Roberts and his wife were active members of Sandy Springs Quaker community. During the Civil War, their home served as a recuperation center for Federal hospital nurses. Roberts is most known for his 26-year tenure as director of the Montgomery Fire Insurance Company. His wife, Mary Needles Rush Roberts was founder of the local woman's association, the second such organization founded in the United States. Following the death of the Roberts, the notable Greek Revival-style house was repurchased by the Bentley family in 1888, when it became the home of John Bentley. Bentley was also very active in local organizations, such as the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring, the Montgomery County Agricultural Society, and the Montgomery Farmers' Club. In 1912, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates.

Prior to moving to Cloverly, John Bentley had been living at Oakleigh, which was constructed by his father, Richard T. Bentley. The house was constructed in 1882, the year of John Bentley's marriage to Cornelia Hallowell. When the couple relocated to Cloverly in 1888, Oakleigh was occupied by Edward Needles Bentley (before he too moved to Cloverly). The property was inherited in 1913 by John Needles Bentley, who was more commonly known as Jack Bentley. Bentley was a well-known baseball player, pitching of the Washington American League Baseball Club and later playing for the New York Giants.

INDIVIDUAL DESCRIPTIONS

Bloomfield is a sizeable, five-acre remnant of a substantial nineteenth-century farm complex. The property includes a two-story, frame dwelling building, a nineteenth-century brick smokehouse and log springhouse, and a more recently constructed concrete-block chicken house/workshop and a concrete-block barn. The main house survives as a prime example of the architectural

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

M: 28-11-10

Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly Farms

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evolution of domestic construction. It is a large two-story frame structure, built in three distinct phases, and all covered by three independent gable roofs. As it stands today, the house is seven bays wide, clad in weatherboard siding and illuminated by 6/6 windows. It has two front doors, which is typical of Quaker housing. The house is unified by a circa 1950 two-story Mount Vernon-style piazza and a projecting front gable on center of the three-part house.

Cloverly is a two-and-a-half-story house designed in the Greek Revival style. The house is set upon an expansive lawn on the north side of Olney-Sandy Spring Road. The property includes the main dwelling with several additions, an historic carriage house/stable and a contemporary, non-contributing stable/barn. The brick house is set on a stone foundation and covered by a gable roof. It is five bays wide, with a central entry and a three-bay-wide front porch. The front elevation of the house is laid in Flemish bond, while the other three elevations are laid in five-course American bond. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features two exterior-end brick chimneys.

Oakleigh is a two-and-a-half-story house that is five bays wide. The Victorian-era dwelling is wood frame and covered by a gable roof. Although altered by new materials and a reconfigured interior, the main house retains its original, overall building form, and some of its original features and detailing. This includes an Italianate-style door, applied woodwork in the dormers, and an original interior stair with a turned newel. The house is set on a stone foundation and covered in vinyl siding, which has been applied over the original wood weatherboard. The gable roof is covered in standing-seam metal and features three symmetrically aligned gable dormers and interior-end brick chimneys. A two-story wing with an end chimney is located on the south side of the house and appears to be an original structure.

EVALUATION

Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly are significant for their association with the Bentley family. The collective historic context of these three properties documents the development and subsequent subdivision of an expansive agricultural property owned at the turn of the nineteenth century by Caleb Bentley. Bentley and his descendants were longtime, prominent residents of Sandy Spring and active members of the Quaker community. Richard T. Bentley oversaw the expansion of his father's house, Bloomfield, and construction of Oakleigh. He repurchased the property known as Cloverly, which his father had sold in 1848. Collectively and individually, these architecturally significant properties are notable for their direct association with clock maker and entrepreneur Caleb Bentley, farmer, postmaster, and bank president Richard T. Bentley, John C. Bentley of the House of Delegates, and John "Jack" N. Bentley, a renowned national baseball player.

All identified resources are contributing to the identified areas of significance, with the exception of the non-historic outbuildings noted at Bloomfield. The period of significance is circa 1806, by which time the first part of the main house at Bloomfield was erected, to 1969, when Jack Bentley died and Oakleigh became the last of the three properties no longer owned by the family. These historic properties are recognized for their architectural social/humanitarian significance. Accordingly, Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly are eligible under Criterion B for their association with the Bentley family and Criterion C for architecture dating from circa 1806 to 1886, with notable twentieth-century additions and alterations. Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly collectively retains substantial integrity of setting, location, feeling, association, design, workmanship, and materials.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

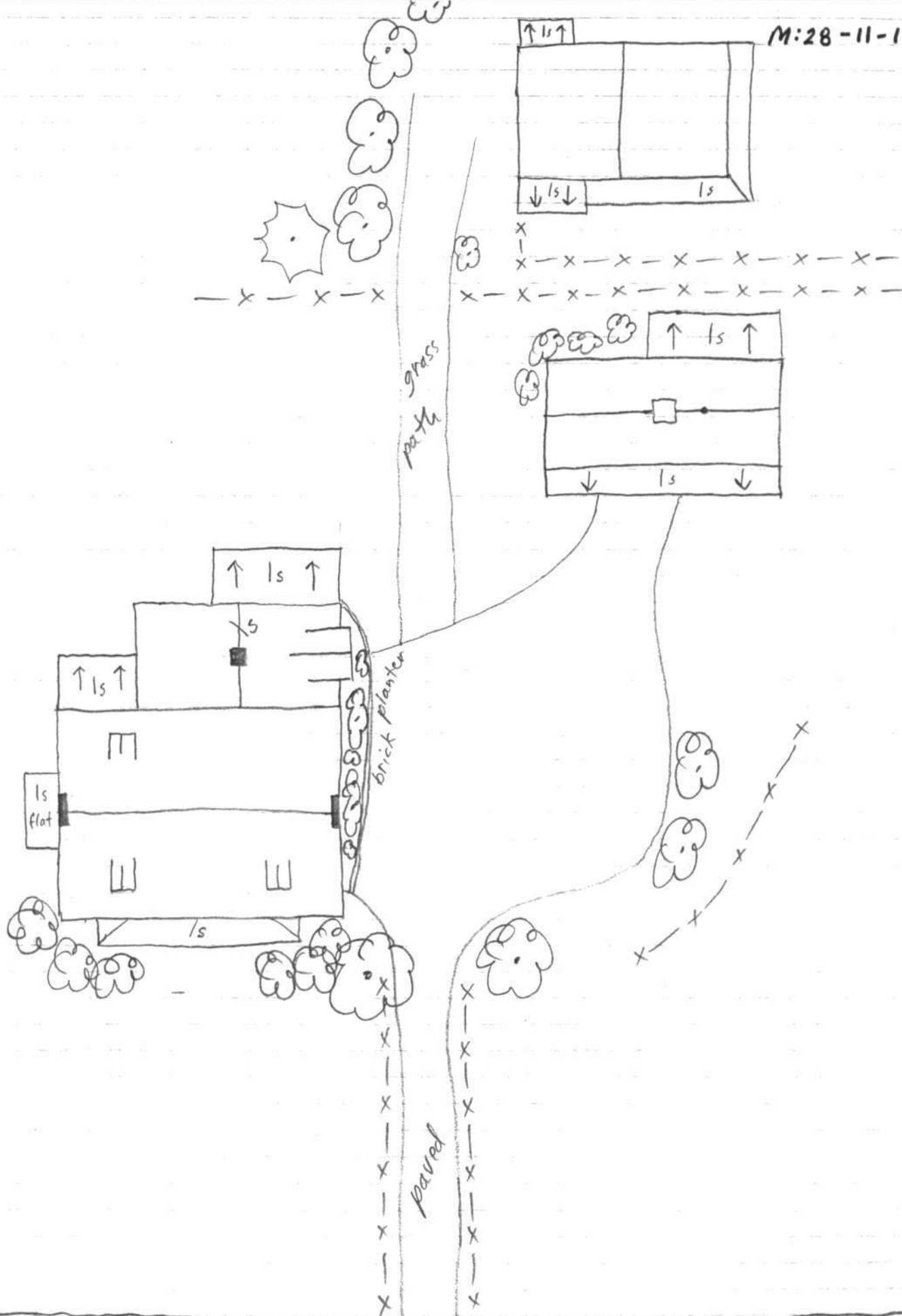
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

M:28-11-10

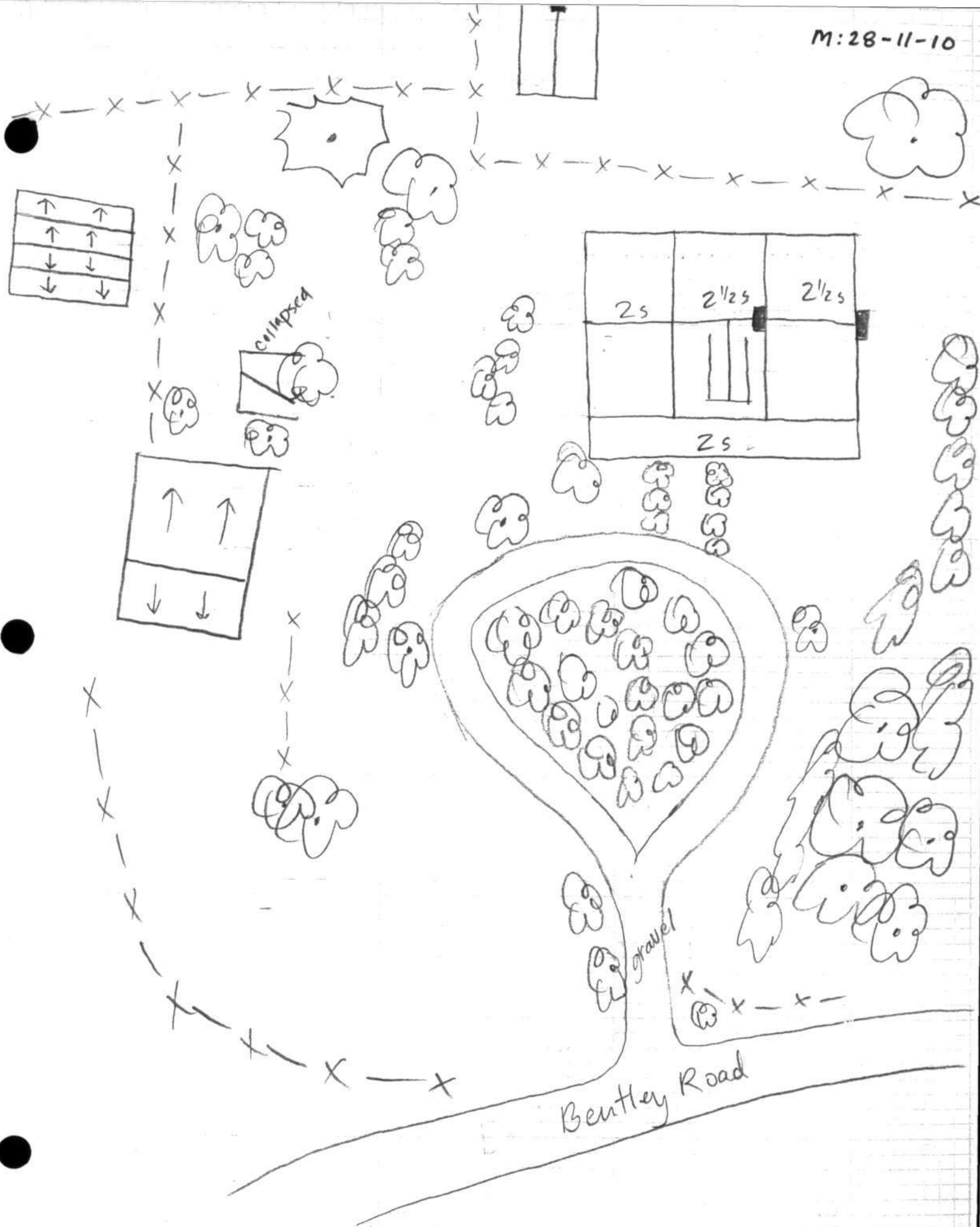


MD 108

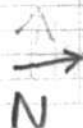
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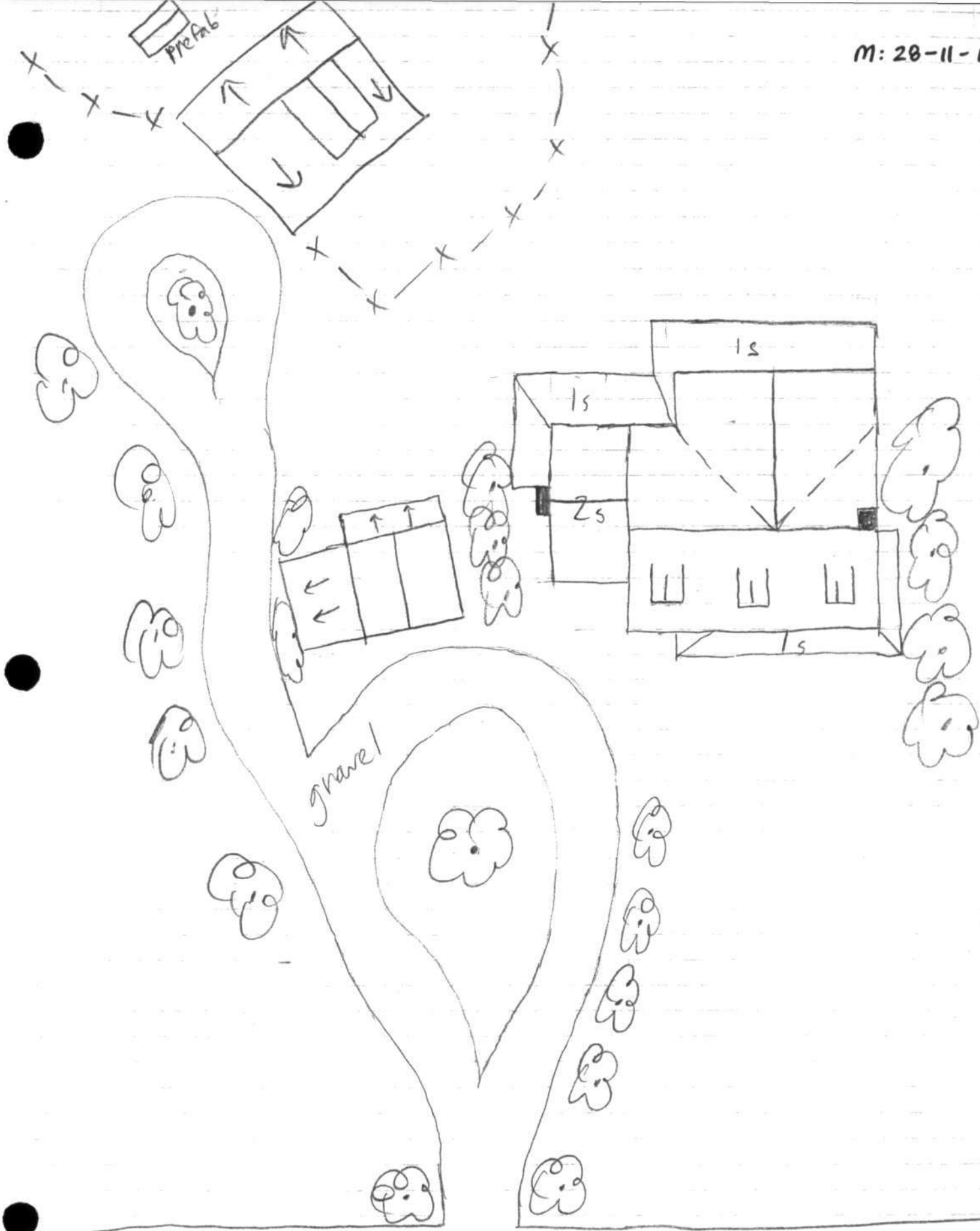
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18000 Bentley Road "Bloomfield"



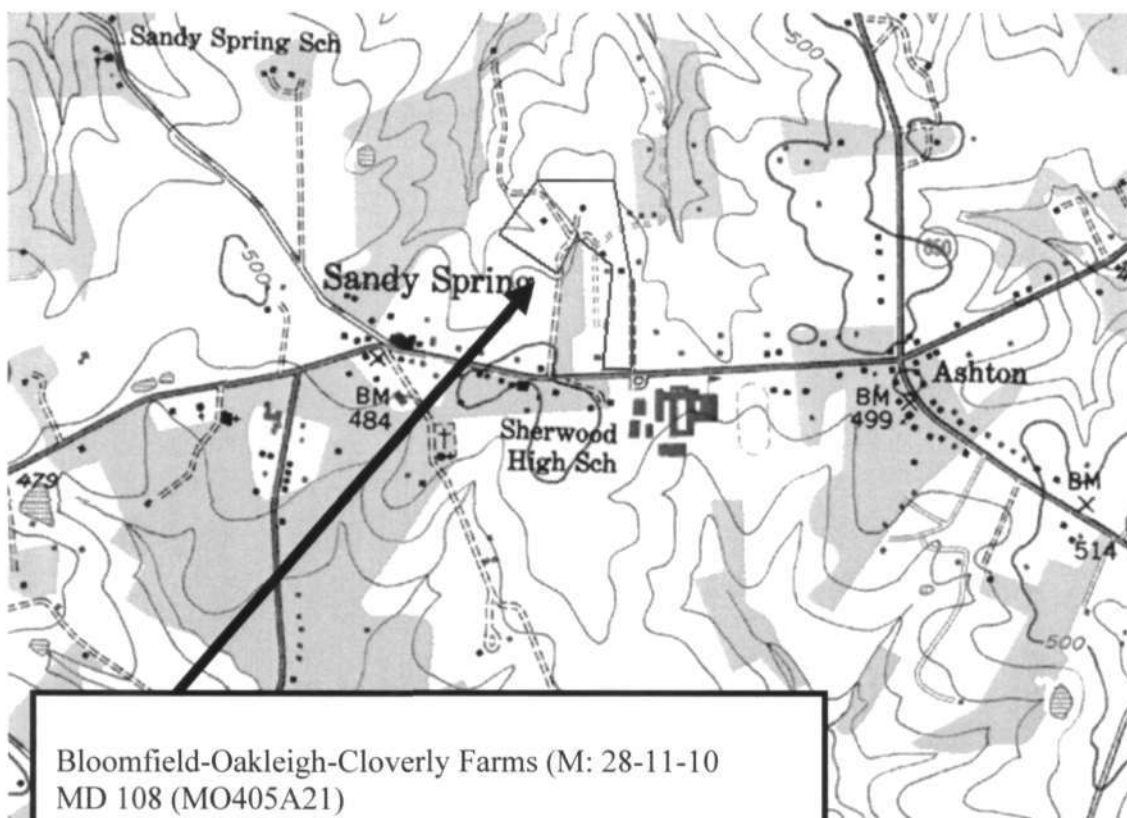
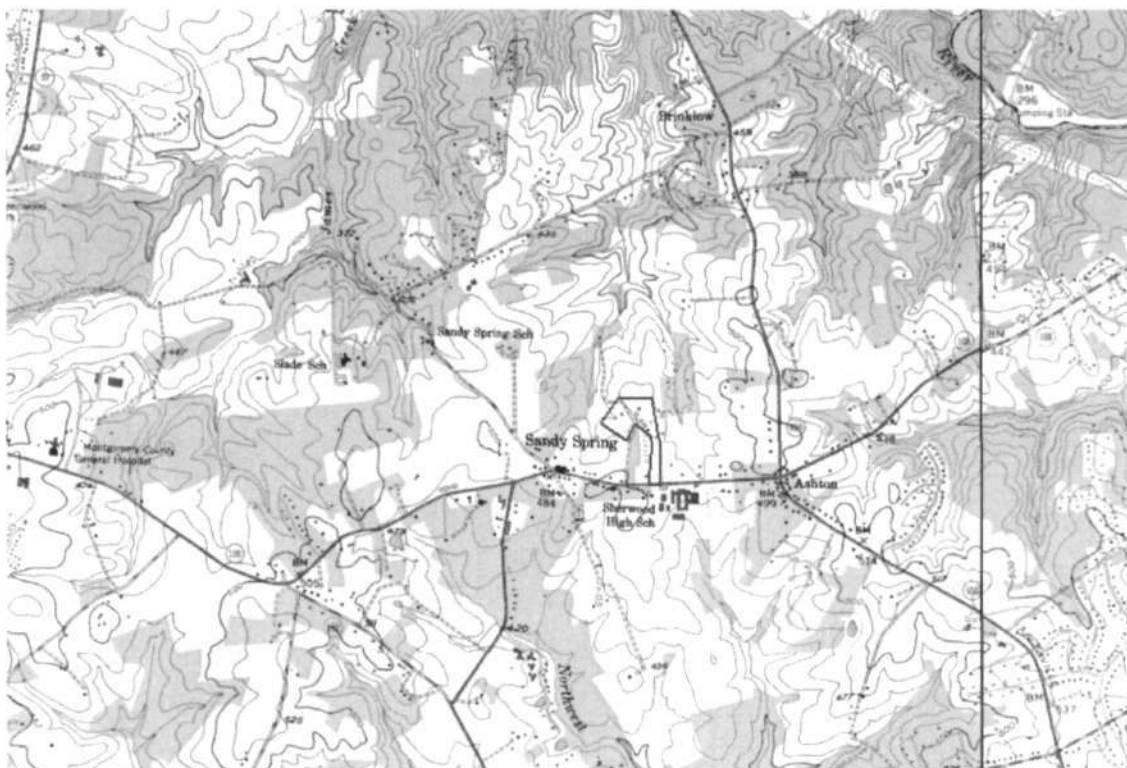
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Bentley Road

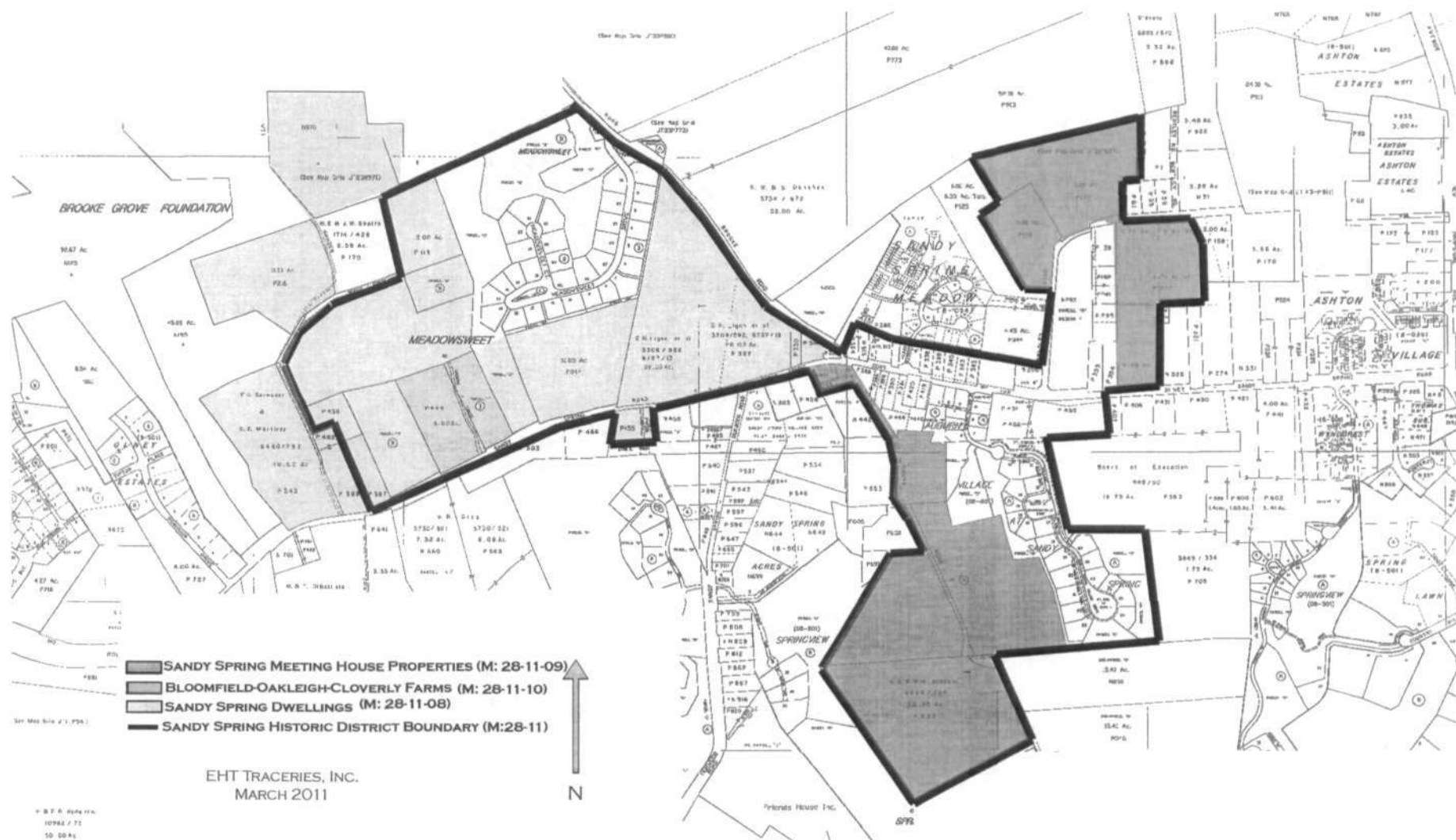
18100 Bentley Road "Oakleigh"





Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly Farms (M: 28-11-10
 MD 108 (MO405A21)
 Montgomery County, MD: Sandy Spring
 Sandy Spring, MD USGS Map, 1979
 EHT Tracerics, Inc.



EHT TRACERIES, INC.
MARCH 2011



M: 28-11-10
BLOOMFIELD-OAKLEIGH-CLOVERLY
CLOVERLY, 321 OLNEY SANDY SPRING ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
EHT TRACERIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MD 84PO

MAIN ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHWEST

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BLOOMFIELD - OAKLEIGH - CLOVERLY
BLOOMFIELD, 18000 BENTLEY ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
EHT TRACERIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MD SHPO

MAIN ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHWEST

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M: 28-11-10

BLOOMFIELD-OAKLEIGH-CLOVERLY
OAKLEIGH, 18010 BENTLEY ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MDSHPO

MAIN ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHEAST

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